

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

DEONTAE GORDON,

Case No. 08-12989

Plaintiff,

SENIOR UNITED STATES
DISTRICT JUDGE
ARTHUR J. TARNOW

v.

G. COLLINS, ET AL.,

Defendants.

ORDER STAYING CASE
PENDING APPOINTMENT OF PRO BONO COUNSEL

Although there is no right to counsel in civil cases, this Court will explore whether *pro bono* counsel will represent Plaintiff. Plaintiff would benefit from the assistance of counsel.

The Court notes that “[a]ppointment of counsel in a civil case is not a constitutional right.” *See Lavado v. Keohane*, 992 F.2d 601, 605 (6th Cir. 1993). However, in its discretion, a court may appoint an attorney to represent any person unable to afford counsel, and here, Plaintiffs’ affidavit demonstrates sufficient financial need to support the application. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e). Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that this matter is referred to the Court’s *pro bono* program for the appointment of counsel.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if reasonable efforts to assign *pro bono* counsel are unsuccessful, this matter will be returned to the Court’s docket, and Plaintiffs may proceed *pro se*.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT further proceedings in this case are hereby

STAYED pending whether counsel is appointed or Plaintiffs proceed *pro se*.

SO ORDERED.

S/ARTHUR J. TARNOW

Arthur J. Tarnow
United States District Judge

Dated: February 7, 2011

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was served upon counsel of record and Deontae Gordon #308075, Ernest C. Brooks Correctional Facility, 2500 S. Sheridan Dr. Muskegon Heights, MI 49444 on February 7, 2011, by electronic and/or ordinary mail.

S/LISA M. WARE

Case Manager